released to the affected States are as under:

(Rs. in crore)

State	Centre's share
Arunachal Pradesh	2.43
Assam	20.80
Gujarat	58.06
Kerala	23.04
Maharashtra	28.365
Rajasthan	74.46
Sikkim	1.96
West Bengal	10.67

The States of Gujarat and Sikkim have submitted Memoranda seeking additional assistance from the NFCR in the wake of cyclone and rains/landslides, respectively. Necessary action is being taken as per prescribed procedure.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Productivity of cashew in Kerala

3214. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has submitted a project for replanting and productivity improvement of cashew in the State; and

(b) what decision has been taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) During November, 1997 the Government of Kerala submited a project proposal seeking Central Assistance of Rs. 107.10 crores for Replanting and Productivity Improvement of Cashew in Kerala. The project included the components of area expansion, replanting and rejuvenation of old and senile orchards, production and distribution of hybrid varieties of cashew clones, establishment of model gardens, better management of young plantations, training and propaganda, to be implemented in a period of five years during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

Most of the components included in the project proposal submitted by the Government of Kerala like area expansion, replanting/rejuvenation, production and distribution of hybrid varieties through regional nurseries, establishment of model clonal garden and training of farmers are being covered under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme on 'Integrated Development of Cashew'. A sum of Rs. 119.9 lakhs was released to the Government of Kerala during 1997-98. During 1998-99 an allocation of Rs. 92.02 lakhs has been provided for Kerala state. The other components are not covered under the scheme.

Setting up of a statutory cotton board

3215. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has suggested the setting up of a Statutory Cotton Board based at Hyderabad;

(b) if so, when was this proposal received by Government and what steps have been taken in this regard; and

(c) the details of status of this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh suggested for setting up of Cotton Board in his letter addressed to Ex-Prime Minister which was received in November, 1997.

The proposal has been examined in this Ministry and this Ministry does not support the proposal for establishment of Cotton Board.